

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

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Record  
HPSC

4 April 1983

The Honorable Edward P. Boland  
Chairman  
Permanent Select Committee  
on Intelligence  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Concurrent Resolution to support the establishment of a National Historical Intelligence Museum.

The support and recognition of the role of intelligence reflected in the Resolution is certainly gratifying. The intrinsic nature of the intelligence business, however, precludes us from advertising our activities. We would be hard pressed to come up with meaningful exhibit materials that were unclassified. Moreover, any Intelligence Community association with an exhibition of intelligence materials would send the wrong signal to our foreign friends, whose confidence in our ability to keep secrets we are trying to bolster. Finally, any Intelligence Community support of such a venture would invariably be perceived as domestic propaganda.

While we therefore appreciate the good intentions behind the Resolution, I am sure you will understand why we oppose establishing an intelligence museum and believe it would be unwise for the Intelligence Community to be associated in any way with such a project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John N. McMahon".

John N. McMahon  
Acting Director of Central Intelligence